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SUMMARY OF COMMENTARY IN PRAVDA ON SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA
(May 22 - June 21, 1982)

July 1982

Prepared by the Federal Research Division of
the Library of Congress under an interagency agreement

Analyst: Gerald Cady

PREFACE

This monthly survey compiles articles on sub-Saharan Africa which appear in Pravda. It has been prepared since April 1980. Pravda is the official newspaper of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. Items published are presumably authoritative. Articles dealing with Soviet political, military, or economic interests in Africa are entirely translated or extensively excerpted or summarized. News accounts which heavily rely on news services of other countries are simply noted. All entries have been arranged chronologically under general African or country headings. FBIS translations are summarized or annotated for reader reference; duplication is avoided.

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Summary of Commentary In Pravda on Sub-Saharan Africa
(22 May - 21 June 1982)*

Africa General

Mineral Production

(Excerpt) African countries account for a significant output of 10 out of the 16 most important metal and nonmetallic minerals. African nations hold first place in deposits of gold, chrome, and manganese. (24 May 82, p. 6)

Population Growth

(Excerpt) The population of Africa is approaching the half-billion mark. The birthrate in Africa is one of the highest in the world, and by the year 2000 it is estimated that more than 800 million people will live in Africa. (24 May 82, p. 6)

Nonaligned Countries' Meeting

(Excerpts) The delegations of 92 states are participating in the session of the Nonaligned Countries' Coordinating Bureau which has opened here [Havana] at the foreign minister level. The Cuban Foreign Minister I. Malmierca, in his opening remarks, expressed support for the South-West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) and the Namibian people, as well as for the African frontline states, primarily Angola and Mozambique. (4 Jun 82, p. 5 and translated in toto by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report #112, 10 Jun 82, p. CC5)

African National Congress

ANC Strategy Shift

(Excerpt) In a statement by the military arm of the African National Congress (ANC) of South Africa, it was declared that the struggle against the apartheid regime had taken on a new character. And this has been recognized even by the racist authorities as the basic thrusts by the patriots [ANC], and is now directed at major strategic and economic targets, including communications. (12 Jun 82, p. 1)

Soviet Interest in Africa

Soviet Building Assistance

(Excerpt) Soviet organizations are rendering assistance in the construction of nearly 600 projects, including more than 100 industrial projects, in the countries of Africa. (24 May 82, p. 6)

*Not including editions of 18, 19, and 21 June.

African Cinematography

(Excerpt) The power of young African film makers is growing with the increase in numbers of students in this field during the past decade. Many of the art and documentary films have portrayed the liberation struggle on the African continent and have touched on serious social themes. (24 May 82, p. 6)

Brezhnev Africa Liberation Day Message

(Excerpt) In no continent, including the African one, can the people feel themselves secure. It is no secret that an attempt is being made to cover the countries of Africa with a network of military bases, that the Rapid Deployment Force is targeted against them, and that the entire arsenal of means of blackmail, pressure, and provocations is being used against them. (25 May 82, p. 3)

Africa Liberation Day Reception

(Text) On 24 May the USSR Foreign Ministry held a reception for the heads of the diplomatic missions of African states accredited to the Soviet Union to mark Africa Liberation Day. The guests were greeted by L. F. Ilichyev, USSR Deputy Foreign Minister. E.C.A. Lang'at, Kenyan Ambassador to the USSR, spoke on behalf of the African countries' ambassadors. (25 May 82, p. 4 and translated by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report #106, 2 Jun 82, p. J1)

Tashkent Film Festival

[Brezhnev sent a message of congratulations to the participants of the International Film Festival of the Countries of Asia, Africa, and Latin America being held in Tashkent. (26 May 82, p. 1 and 26 May 82, p. 6)]

Africa Liberation Day Reception

(Text) On 25 May the diplomatic representatives of the African nations accredited to the USSR met to commemorate Africa Liberation Day. The group was addressed by E.C.A. Lang'at, Kenyan Ambassador to the USSR, and A. F. Vatchenko, Deputy Chairman of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet. (26 May 82, p. 4)

Soviet Support for Liberation Struggle

(Excerpt) Marking Africa Liberation Day and opening the Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Southern Africa, representatives of Moscow society reaffirmed that the people of Africa can still depend on the support of the Soviet Union and other socialist countries in the just struggle for liberation from the continent of remaining instances of colonialism, racism, and apartheid. (26 May 82, p. 4)

Volume on Soviet-African Relations

(Excerpt) The second volume of The USSR and the Countries of Africa: Documents and Materials, 1963-1970 has been published. This book is a compilation of the most important agreements between the Soviet Union and the countries of Africa, including communiques issued after high level meetings and speeches delivered by Soviet and African state dignitaries. (26 May 82, p. 5)

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Angola

Parliamentarians End Visit

(Excerpts) On 21 May M. Bernado de Sousa, heading a delegation of the Angolan People's Assembly and member of the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) - Labor Party Central Committee, gave a press conference for Soviet journalists in Moscow before departing from the Soviet Union. He stated that the USSR is Angola's true, reliable friend that, as in the past, is giving Angola effective assistance in building a new society. (22 May 82, p. 4 and translated in toto by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report #103, 27 May 82, p. J1)

Parliamentarian Delegation in USSR

(Excerpt) The visit by a delegation of the Angolan People's Assembly to the Soviet Union was successful, according to its head M. Bernardo de Sousa, First Secretary of the Assembly, successful and he was confident that the contacts between the Supreme Soviet and the People's Assembly would further develop and strengthen the cooperation between the two nations. (23 May 82, p. 4)

Military Provocations

(Excerpt) It is evident, by the piratical character of the South African Air Force flights over the territory of Angola during the past few days, that Pretoria is preparing a new large-scale aggression against this sovereign African nation. The racist commanders are attempting to reconnoiter the positions of the Angolan armed forces and determine their firepower and defensive preparations. (23 May 82, p. 5)

Prosecution of UNITA Members

(Excerpt) According to a report in the Journal di Angola, the Appellate Court of the People's Republic of Angola has confirmed the sentence handed down by the national revolutionary tribunal against the gang of bandits of the National Union for Total Independence in Angola (UNITA). (2 Jun 82, p. 5)

Benin

Support for Soviet Initiatives

(Excerpt) Minister of Information and Propaganda A. Baba-Mussa declared that the People's Republic of Benin supports the new Soviet initiatives and policies for the strengthening of peace, for settling the tense political climate and halting the arms race. (31 May 82, p. 4)

Botswana

Railroad Project

(Excerpt) Botswana has decided to undertake a large project involving the construction of a railway line to the Namibian border that will pass through the Kalahari Desert. (7 Jun 82, p. 6)

Chad

New Government Formed

(Excerpt) Prime Minister Djidingar Dono Ngardoum has formed a new national government to be composed of 16 ministers and 6 state secretaries. (4 Jun 82, p. 5)

FAN Activities

(Excerpt) The situation in Chad has become tense again during the past few days. According to information from the Western press, the so-called Armed Forces of the North under the leadership of Hissein Habre has succeeded in taking control of more than half the country. (7 Jun 82, p. 6)

Capital Falls to Habre

(Excerpt) According to reports by Agence France Presse from N'Djamena, units of the Armed Forces of the North (FAN), which are commanded by the former defense minister Hissein Habre, have captured the capital of Chad. (8 Jun 82, p. 5)

OAU Urges Calm

(Excerpt) A France-Presse report in Nairobi says that the Chairman of the Organization of African Unity, President of Kenya Daniel arap Moi, has appealed to all the groups in Chad to do everything possible to prevent further bloodshed in the country. (9 Jun 82, p. 5)

Zairian Contingent to Remain

(Excerpt) Zairian President Mobutu, while on a visit to China, declared that the Zairian contingent of troops in Chad as part of a peacekeeping force would temporarily remain. (13 Jun 82, p. 5)

Congo

New Soviet Ambassador

(Excerpt) The Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet has named Vladimir K. Lobachev as Soviet Ambassador to the People's Republic of the Congo. (6 Jun 82, p. 6)

Party Ties

(Excerpt) In accordance with the plan for party ties between the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and the Congolese Labor Party (PCT), a delegation of the PCT led by F. I. Ankura, Deputy Secretary of the Propaganda, Press, and Information Department of the Central Committee of the PCT, arrived in the Soviet Union. (12 Jun 82, p. 4)

Ethiopia

Project Babe

(Excerpts) In an attempt to deal with the problem of organizing the peasant masses and open up new horizons for them, the authorities in Ethiopia have launched Project Babe. Begun in the middle of last year and named after the river that flows through the three provinces involved, the project aims at organizing 23 large villages in an effort to revolutionize agricultural methods employed on 30,000 hectares of land by means of educating and leading the peasants, providing irrigation, and building a new road. (24 May 82, p. 6)

Book Fair

(Excerpt) A Soviet-Ethiopian book fair marking 60 years of education in the USSR opened in Addis Ababa. (30 May 82, p. 1)

Foreign Friendship Associations

(Excerpt) Several new committees of friendship with foreign countries have been formed in Ethiopia. According to press reports, Ethiopia has established friendship committees with East Germany, Cuba, Vietnam, South Yemen, and Greece. (14 Jun 82, p. 5)

Tigrinya Dictionary

(Excerpt) The first intelligible Tigrinya dictionary is being prepared in Ethiopia. (14 Jun 82, p. 6)

Guinea

Brezhnev Message to Toure

(Summary) L. I. Brezhnev sent a telegram to Sekou Toure, Secretary General of the Democratic Party of Guinea and President of the People's Revolutionary Republic of Guinea, conveying congratulations on Toure's election to the post of president. (28 May 82, p. 2)

Guinea-Bissau

Soviet Party Delegation

(Text) Yu. N. Kuchepatov, Second Secretary of the Arkhangelsk Obkom, led a Soviet Communist Party delegation to Guinea-Bissau in accordance with plans for interparty ties between the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and the African Independence Party of Guinea and the Cape Verde Islands. (5 Jun 82, p. 4)

Exchange of Telegrams

(Excerpt) N. Tikhonov, Chairman of USSR Council of Ministers, sent V. Saude Maria a telegram to congratulate him on having been named Prime Minister of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau. The prime minister sent a return telegram expressing appreciation to N. Tikhonov. (12 Jun 82, p. 3)

Soviet Party Delegation Returns

(Text) A delegation of Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU) workers headed by Yu. N. Kuchapatov, Second Secretary of the Arkhangelsk CPSU Obkom [regional party body], which visited the Republic of Guinea-Bissau in accordance with the plan of interparty ties between the CPSU and the African Party for the Independence of Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde, has returned to Moscow. (15 Jun 82, p. 4 and translated by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report #122, 24 Jun 82, p. J1)

Ivory Coast

Economic Difficulties

(Excerpt) According to newspaper reports out of Abidjan, the capital of the Ivory Coast, this country is experiencing serious economic difficulties. The Ivory Coast has maintained close ties with France, the former colonial power, and had been a showcase of successful African-European cooperation and of the free enterprise system. But now, the country suffers from a serious decline in the income from the sale of cacao, coffee, bananas, and a sharp rise in its dependence on foreign capital. Consequently there has been an increase in the number of unemployed workers and a drop in the incomes of workers and peasants. (24 May 82, p. 5)

Kenya

Reaction to Lebanese Situation

(Text) Kenya's President Daniel arap Moi declared that Kenya decisively condemned Israel's aggression against Lebanon and demanded that Israel immediately withdraw its troops. (16 Jun 82, p. 5)

Mali

Russian Language Training

(Text) More than 140 citizens of the Republic of Mali received completion certificates for Russian language training conducted in the capital, Bamako. (5 Jun 82, p. 5)

Interparty Ties

(Excerpt) In accordance with the plan for ties between the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU) and the Democratic Union of the Mali People (UDPM), a delegation of the UDPM led by Bai Ag Mohamed, Member of the Central Executive Bureau of the party, was in the USSR from 29 May to 11 June. (12 Jun 82, p. 4)

Mauritius

Election Victory for Left

(Excerpt) According to news reports out of Port Louis, the capital of the state of Mauritius, the opposition block of leftist parties under the banner of

the party called Mouvement Militant Mauricienne (MMM), have secured a victory in recently held parliamentary elections. (14 Jun 82, p. 1)

Mozambique

Ustinov Receives Angolan Delegation

(Text) On 26 May Marshal of the Soviet Union D. F. Ustinov, Member of the Soviet Communist Party Central Committee and USSR Defense Minister, received Marcelino dos Santos, Member of the Front for the Liberation of Mozambique (FRELIMO) Party Central Committee Permanent Political Committee and Secretary of the Central Committee for Economic Affairs, who is in the USSR.

There was a friendly talk on questions of mutual interest. (27 May 82, p. 5)

Journalism School

(Text) The national school of journalism in Maputo graduated its first class of mass information workers when 14 men and women successfully completed their courses. (6 Jun 82, p. 4)

National Resistance Movement

(Excerpt) According to reports in the Journal di Angola, units of the Mozambican Army undertook large military operations against bands of the so-called National Resistance Movement, made up of mercenaries from the Republic of South Africa and the United States, in the province of Manica. (6 Jun 82, p. 5)

Namibia

Negotiations Resume

(Excerpts) Leaders of the People's Democratic Republic of Angola and the South-West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) have resumed talks [in Luanda] with representatives of the "contact group" (United States, Great Britain, France, West Germany, and Canada) concerning Namibia. However, in the past few months all of the so-called initiatives made by this group in the negotiations have always supported the positions of the racist regime of the Republic of South Africa. (14 Jun 82, p. 4)

Frontline Support for SWAPO

(Excerpt) A meeting was held [in Dar es Salaam] by leaders of the 6 Frontline States and the leadership of the South-West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO). Tanzania's Foreign Minister Salim A. Salim reported to journalists that the participants had reached a fully unified opinion regarding the resolution of the Namibian problem. (16 Jun 82, p. 5)

Africa's Largest Colony

(Excerpt) On a political map of Africa there remains one large colony, Namibia, which is occupied by the Republic of South Africa. Despite the demands

by the Namibian people and the international community for this nation's independence, the South African racists do not wish to remove their hands from this rich and wholesome land inhabited by nearly 1 million people. (24 May 82, p. 6)

Contact Group Maneuvers

(Excerpt) According to a representative of the South-West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO), the contact group (United States, Great Britain, France, West Germany, and Canada), in harmony with the Republic of South Africa, will propose that questions involving political representation be deferred for the time being in order that serious negotiations over Namibia's independence continue. (31 May 82, p. 5)

Nigeria

Soviet Assistance to Steel Industry

(Summary) Overview of the Soviet involvement with the steel plant located at Ajaokuta, with particular emphasis to training programs for Nigerians that are underway in both countries. (24 May 82, p. 6)

Republic of South Africa

Inflation Rate

(Text) The annual inflation rate in the Republic of South Africa is 16.5 percent, based on information available in April. (26 May 82, p. 5)

Increased Aggression Against Angola

(Excerpts) The South African brass have stepped up again their armed provocations against the People's Republic of Angola. The South African Air Force launched massive bombing raids against populated sites in the country's south, while mobile units of infantry, the so-called "death columns," have carried out punitive operations against the peaceful population of the Angolan province of Cunene. This sabre-rattling is designed to make the independent African countries display tractability at a moment when Western countries are drafting new proposals for a Namibian settlement. (7 Jun 82, p. 5 and translated in toto by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report #109, 7 Jun 82, p. J2)

Trade Unions Repressed

(Excerpt) Repressive policies against trade union activists and freedom fighters struggling for civil rights continue in the racist Republic of South Africa. N. Agett is the latest victim of police violence. After he was arrested the police claimed that he committed suicide, but the facts indicated that he was premeditatively murdered. (11 Jun 82, p. 5)

Proposed Constitutional Changes

(Summary) A report by the Presidential Council of the Republic of South Africa on constitutional changes. These changes involve a plan to draw the

Coloreds and Indians into administration of the state. This widely publicized reform is being presented almost as a change of the foundations of the apartheid system. In actual fact, as is clear from the report, Asians get at best extremely limited rights such as participation in municipal council elections, yet the segregated pattern of residence within these localities remains unaltered. (15 Jun 82, p. 5 and translated in toto by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report #116, 16 Jun 82, p. J1)

Somalia

Political Crackdown

(Excerpt) According to Reuters news service monitoring of Radio Mogadishu, the authorities in Somalia have arrested 7 prominent political and state figures, including the third vice president, a brigadier general, and the Secretary of the Somali Revolutionary Socialist Party Central Committee. (14 Jun 82, p. 5)

Sudan

Foreign Debt

(Excerpt) Sudan has an enormous foreign debt totaling \$5.2 billion. (5 Jun 82, p. 5)

Tanzania

Donation of Gymnastic Equipment

(Excerpt) The Sport-Committee of the USSR donated equipment for Tanzania's first gymnastic center. (31 May 82, p. 8)

Interparty Cooperation Document

(Excerpt) A plan for party ties between the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and the Revolutionary Party of Tanzania was signed in Dar es Salaam for 1982-83. (9 Jun 82, p. 4)

Uganda

Film Festival

(Excerpt) A film festival at the national theatre of Uganda commemorated 60 years of education in the USSR. (9 Jun 82, p. 4)

Socioeconomic Overview

[A. Serbin, Pravda's special correspondent, filed a long historical article on Uganda that emphasized the socioeconomic development of the country. (13 Jun 82, p. 4)]

Zaire

Libya Cuts Ties

(Text) The People's Bureau for Foreign Relations in Libya announced that it was severing diplomatic relations with Zaire. This step was taken in the face of protests surrounding Zaire's decision to reestablish diplomatic ties with Israel. (23 May 82, p. 1)

Zambia

UNIP Delegation Departs

(Excerpts) H. Mulemba, General Secretary of the United National Independence Party (UNIP), was in the Soviet Union on a friendly visit from 8 through 11 June as head of a delegation of party and state figures from Zambia. The Zambian guests gave a high assessment of the foreign policy course of the Soviet Union and expressed a desire for the further development of friendly relations between the Soviet Union and Zambia, and between the Soviet Communist Party and UNIP. (13 Jun 82, p. 4 and translated in toto by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report #116, 16 Jun 82, p. J2)

UNIP Delegation Tours Moscow

(Excerpt) Humphrey Mulemba, General Secretary of the United National Independence Party (UNIP), and party and government members of his delegation visited the Lenin Mausoleum and placed a wreath there. (10 Jun 82, p. 4)